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Your Reference: HL74968/003/ASG
Application No: GB 0313406.1

3 September 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 6 October 2003

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citation.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 7 October 2003. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 7 October 2003 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully

L. A. Ellis

Dr. Lyndon Ellis
Examiner



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0313406.1
 Claims searched: 1-5

Examiner: Dr. Lyndon Ellis
 Date of search: 2 September 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A, E	-	GB 2347952 A (Shell)

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO, & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^v:

E1F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷ :

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Allowance of the divisional date

1. Your request that this application be treated as having been filed on 27 April 2000, which is the same date of filing as your earlier application number GB 0016917.7, has been allowed.

Consistency and clarity

2. The description, including the statements of invention, should be brought into agreement with the claims. It should also be made clear which of the figures actually relate to the invention as claimed.

3. Lines 3 and 4 of page 1 are not consistent with claim 1. The invention described in claim 1 does not seem to require that the connector is expandable.

The title of the invention

4. The title of your specification does not clearly indicate the nature of your invention. I suggest "A connection for expandable tubulars" would be a better title. The invention as claimed does not include an expandable connection.

Registered Trade Marks

5. Although they should preferably be avoided, if you wish to keep the references to the Registered Trade Marks "Halliburton, Cameron, Breda, Petrolina" used throughout your specification, you should acknowledge that they are Registered Trade Marks, possibly by using the abbreviation "(RTM)". If you do not insert an acknowledgment, I will do so in manuscript.

Publication

6. Your application is being published concurrently.